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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 VATICAN 002022

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DEPT. FOR EUR/WE (VAN CLEVE), EUR/PD/PA, EUR/WST, WHA, AF,  
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FROM EMBASSY VATICAN/MESSAGE NO. 56/01

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: VATICAN - "VIEWS FROM THE HILL"

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REF: VATICAN 1615

1. THE APRIL 07 - 12 EDITION OF NEWS AND VIEWS FROM  
VATICAN CITY.

CONTENTS:

- POPE RESPONDS TO UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX "DON'T COME" LETTER
- VATICAN RADIO CUTS AIRTIME AND ELECTROMAGNETIC RADIATION
- CHANGES IN POPE'S PARTICIPATION IN EASTER EVENTS
- POPE DISBURSES MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN AID
- VATICAN ANNOYED BY EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT CENSURE
- CABINET LEVEL APPOINTMENTS
- NEW VATICAN YEAR BOOK: INCREASE IN NUMBERS

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POPE REPLIES TO UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX PATRIARCH  
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2. VATICAN SPOKESMAN JOAQUIN NAVARRO-VALLS ANNOUNCED APRIL 10 THAT POPE JOHN PAUL II HAS WRITTEN TO UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX PATRIARCH VLADIMIR OF KIEV. THE SPOKESMAN DID NOT DIVULGE THE CONTENTS OF THE PRIVATE LETTER. VATICAN SOURCES SAY IT STRESSED THE ECUMENICAL NATURE OF THE PONTIFF'S VISIT TO UKRAINE THIS SUMMER. CARDINAL ROBERTO TUCCI, THE OUTGOING DIRECTOR OF PAPAL TRAVEL, DELIVERED THE LETTER TO THE ORTHODOX PATRIARCH. TUCCI ALSO DELIVERED AN INVITATION FOR THE PATRIARCH TO ATTEND THE VATICAN'S COMMEMORATION OF THE LAST HOURS OF THE LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST (STATIONS OF THE CROSS) AT ROME'S COLISEUM ON APRIL 13. PATRIARCH VLADIMIR WROTE TO THE POPE JANUARY 22 ON BEHALF OF THE 42 UKRAINIAN  
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ORTHODOX BISHOPS WHO ARE ALIGNED WITH THE PATRIARCHATE OF MOSCOW. HE URGED THE POPE NOT TO GO THROUGH WITH HIS PLANNED VISIT, SAYING IT WOULD COMPLICATE ECUMENICAL RELATIONS. WHILE THE CONTENTS OF THE PATRIARCH'S LETTER WERE MADE PUBLIC IMMEDIATELY, THE VATICAN DID NOT OFFICIALLY RECEIVE A COPY UNTIL WEEKS LATER AND HAS NOW RESPONDED PRIVATELY. THE VATICAN HAS MADE IT CLEAR THAT, DESPITE THE OBJECTIONS OF THE ORTHODOX LEADERS, THE POPE WILL NOT CHANGE HIS PLANS.

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VATICAN RADIO: REDUCTION IN MEDIUM WAVE TRANSMISSIONS  
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3. VATICAN RADIO ANNOUNCED APRIL 10 THAT IT WILL REDUCE THE NUMBER OF ITS MEDIUM WAVE BROADCASTS AFTER A JOINT VATICAN-ITALIAN COMMISSION DETERMINED THAT THE STATION VIOLATED ITALY'S STRICT LIMITS ON ELECTROMAGNETIC RADIATION. PRELIMINARY MEASUREMENTS TAKEN BY A JOINT TEAM OF TECHNICIANS FROM VATICAN RADIO AND THE ITALIAN MINISTRIES OF HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT CONFIRMED THAT SOME TRANSMISSION LEVELS EXCEEDED BY AS MUCH AS THREE TIMES THE ITALIAN LIMITS ON ELECTROMAGNETIC EMISSIONS. VATICAN SPOKESMAN JOAQUIN NAVARRO-VALLS SAID THE RADIO REDUCED SIGNAL STRENGTH BY 50 PERCENT IN FEBRUARY 2001, AND THAT CUTS IN BROADCASTING SCHEDULES WOULD BE MADE TO BRING LEVELS INTO LINE WITH ITALIAN STANDARDS. BROADCASTS VIA FM AND SHORT WAVE (HOW MOST OF THE WORLD RECEIVES THE RADIO'S PROGRAMMING) WILL NOT BE AFFECTED BY THE CHANGES. VATICAN RADIO POINTED OUT THAT ITS TRANSMISSIONS CONFORM TO INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS ON ELECTROMAGNETIC RADIATION, WHICH HAVE BEEN ADOPTED BY 14 OTHER EUROPEAN UNION COUNTRIES. ITALY PASSED MORE STRINGENT  
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REGULATIONS IN 1998. (COMMENT: EMBASSY CONTACTS AT VATICAN RADIO SAY THE REDUCTION IN TRANSMISSION SCHEDULES WILL HAVE MINIMAL IMPACT ON ITS OPERATION. THE RADIO HAS PLANNED FOR SOME TIME TO FOCUS EXCLUSIVELY ON SATELLITE AND INTERNET TECHNOLOGY TO PROPAGATE ITS MESSAGE. END COMMENT).

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CHANGES TO POPE'S EASTER PROGRAM  
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4. THE VATICAN ANNOUNCED APRIL 10 THAT POPE JOHN PAUL II WILL NOT PARTICIPATE FULLY IN AN APRIL 13 COMMEMORATION OF THE LAST HOURS OF THE LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST (STATIONS OF THE CROSS) AT ROME'S COLISEUM. THE INTERNATIONALLY TELEVISED EVENT IS A HIGHLIGHT OF THE VATICAN'S EASTER WEEKEND PROGRAM. INSTEAD OF WALKING AROUND THE COLISEUM, THE POPE WILL REMAIN KNEELING THROUGHOUT THE CEREMONY. HE WILL CARRY A LIGHT WOODEN CROSS FOR THE FINAL FEW METERS OF THE PROCESSION AND THEN DELIVER HIS CUSTOMARY MESSAGE AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE SERVICE. THE CHANGE IN FORMAT IS A CONCESSION TO THE POPE'S PHYSICAL LIMITATIONS.

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PAPAL CHARITY DISBURSES US DOLLARS 7 MILLION  
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15. THE PAPAL CHARITY "COR UNUM" (ONE HEART) ANNOUNCED

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ACTION EUR-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AF-00	ACQ-00	CA-02	CIAE-00	USNW-00
	DODE-00	DOEE-00	DS-00	EAP-00	FBIE-00	UTED-00	VC-00
	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	L-00	VCE-00	M-00
	AC-01	NEA-00	NSAE-00	OCS-03	OES-01	OIC-02	PA-00
	PM-00	ACE-00	P-00	SCT-00	SP-00	IRM-00	SSO-00
	SS-00	TEST-00	T-00	USIE-00	R-00	SNIS-00	NISC-00
	PMB-00	DSCC-00	DRL-02	G-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/012W

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FM AMEMBASSY VATICAN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC/0000  
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SUBJECT: VATICAN - "VIEWS FROM THE HILL"

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APRIL 9 THAT POPE JOHN PAUL HAD DONATED SOME US DOLLARS 7  
MILLION DURING THE VATICAN'S FY2000. THE MONEY WAS USED FOR  
EMERGENCY AID IN PLACES LIKE KOSOVO, MOZAMBIQUE AND ETHIOPIA  
AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN GEORGIA, CAMEROON AND PERU AMONG  
OTHERS. ALSO INCLUDED IN THE FIGURE ARE TWO "CONTINENT  
SPECIFIC" PROJECTS. THE "POPULORUM PROGRESSIO" FOUNDATION  
FUNDS DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES FOR THE POOR IN LATIN AMERICA.  
SOME US DOLLARS 2 MILLION WENT TO MOSTLY AGRICULTURAL  
PROJECTS. THE "SAHEL FOUNDATION" TACKLES DESERTIFICATION IN  
THE SUB-SAHARAN COUNTRIES OF BURKINA FASO, CAPE VERDE, CHAD,  
GAMBIA, MALI, GUINEA-BISSAU, MAURITANIA, NIGER AND SENEGAL.  
THE FOUNDATION SENT MORE THAN US 2 MILLION FOR SEVERAL  
HUNDRED ARABLE LAND PRESERVATION PROJECTS. "COR UNUM'S"  
PRESIDENT, GERMAN BORN ARCHBISHOP PAUL CORDES, DOWNPLAYED  
THE MONETARY FIGURE OF THE PAPAL DONATIONS SAYING THAT THE  
FOCUS SHOULD BE ON THE POPE'S GESTURES OF SOLIDARITY WITH  
THE POOR AND NEEDY. THE POPE RECEIVES HIS CHARITY FUNDING  
FROM AN ANNUAL WORLDWIDE COLLECTION IN CATHOLIC PARISHES AND  
FROM DONATIONS FROM DIOCESES, RELIGIOUS CONGREGATIONS AND  
PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS.

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VATICAN PEEVED BY EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT CENSURE  
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16. THE VATICAN HAS EXPRESSED "DISAPPOINTMENT" OVER A  
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RESOLUTION CONDEMNING IT FOR ALLEGED  
INACTION IN THE FACE OF REPORTS OF SEXUAL ABUSE OF NUNS BY  
PRIESTS. (REFTEL). THE VATICAN'S OBSERVER AT THE PARLIAMENT,  
MONSIGNOR PAUL GALLAGHER, SAID THE VATICAN SHARED THE  
EUROPEAN BODY'S CONCERN ABOUT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, AND IN  
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PARTICULAR CATHOLIC NUNS. HE OPINED THE RESOLUTION REFLECTED  
ANTI-VATICAN SENTIMENTS IN SOME QUARTERS OVER ABORTION AND  
CONTRACEPTION POLICY CONFLICTS. GALLAGHER NOTED THAT LESS  
THAN 20 PERCENT OF THE PARLIAMENT'S MEMBERS TOOK PART IN THE  
VOTE BUT THAT "ANY ACT OF A DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTION IS TO BE  
TAKEN SERIOUSLY."

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VATICAN CABINET LEVEL APPOINTMENTS  
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17. THE VATICAN HAS ANNOUNCED TWO SENIOR CABINET LEVEL  
APPOINTMENTS. CARDINAL CRESCENZIO SEPE IS TO TAKE THE REINS  
OF THE VATICAN'S POWERFUL MISSIONARY OFFICE, THE  
CONGREGATION FOR THE EVANGELIZATION OF PEOPLES, AND  
ARCHBISHOP ANTONIO MARIA VEGLIO BECOMES SECRETARY (NUMBER 2  
POSITION) OF THE CONGREGATION FOR THE ORIENTAL CHURCHES.  
CARDINAL SEPE WAS THE BRAINS AND THE ENERGY BEHIND THE  
VATICAN'S SUCCESSFUL MILLENNIUM YEAR CELEBRATIONS. HE IS A  
CHARISMATIC FIGURE AND MEDIA-SAVVY. HIS CONSIDERABLE  
ORGANIZATIONAL AND FUND-RAISING ABILITY SHOULD RESULT IN THE  
POWER CONGREGATION FOR THE EVANGELIZATION OF PEOPLES  
ASSUMING AN EVEN HIGHER PROFILE IN THE VATICAN GOVERNMENT.  
(NOTE: IT IS NO SECRET THAT SEPE IS A PAPAL FAVORITE AND HAS  
BEEN REWARDED FOR HIS Y2K ACCOMPLISHMENTS. WHEN PAPAL  
ADVISORS HEARD THAT SEPE WAS TO BE CREATED A CARDINAL  
FEBRUARY LAST, THEY COMMENTED THAT HE WAS TOO YOUNG - HE  
TURNS 58 THIS YEAR. POPE JOHN PAUL II REPLIED, "I BECAME  
POPE AT THE SAME AGE!" END NOTE). ARCHBISHOP VEGLIO IS  
PRESENTLY THE VATICAN'S AMBASSADOR TO LEBANON AND KUWAIT,  
AND THE POPE'S REPRESENTATIVE TO THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES ON  
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THE ARABIAN PENINSULA. HE SUCCEEDS AN AGING AND RECLUSIVE  
UKRAINIAN ARCHBISHOP AS NUMBER TWO AT THE CONGREGATION FOR  
THE ORIENTAL CHURCHES (NOTE: THE CONGREGATION HANDLES ALL

ISSUES RELATING TO THOSE CHRISTIANS WHO ARE NOW IN COMMUNION WITH ROME BUT USE EASTERN OR ORTHODOX-LIKE WORSHIP FORMS AND CHURCH ORGANIZATION. END NOTE). VEGLIO'S LANGUAGE SKILLS AND DIPLOMATIC EXPERIENCE (HE HAS ALSO SERVED IN EUROPE, AFRICA, SOUTH AMERICA AND THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION) AUGUR WELL FOR A REVAMPING OF THE POSITION. (COMMENT: THE CONGREGATION FOR THE ORIENTAL CHURCHES IS SET TO TAKE ON GREATER IMPORTANCE IN THE FUTURE AS A RESULT OF THE POPE JOHN PAUL'S OUTREACH TO ORTHODOXY FOR WHOM THE EXISTENCE OF EASTERN RITE CATHOLICS IS A MAJOR STICKING POINT COMPLICATING EVENTUAL UNION WITH ROME. END COMMENT).

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VATICAN YEAR BOOK  
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18. POPE JOHN PAUL II WAS PRESENTED WITH HOT-OFF-THE-PRESS COPIES ON THE VATICAN'S 2001 YEAR BOOK ON APRIL 9. THE "ANNUARIO PONTIFICIO" LISTS ALL THE WORLDS BISHOPS, THEIR DIOCESES, THE MEMBERS OF THE VATICAN GOVERNMENT, HEADS OF MAJOR RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES, CATHOLIC TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS AND THE MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS ACCREDITED TO THE VATICAN. ENTRIES FOR 2001 INCLUDE: THE HOLY SEE ESTABLISHED DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH BAHRAIN AND DJIBOUTI, BRINGING THE

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ACTION EUR-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AF-00	ACQ-00	CA-02	CIAE-00	USNW-00
	DODE-00	DOEE-00	DS-00	EAP-00	FBIE-00	UTED-00	VC-00
	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	L-00	VCE-00	M-00
	AC-01	NEA-00	NSAE-00	OCS-03	OES-01	OIC-02	PA-00
	PM-00	ACE-00	P-00	SCT-00	SP-00	IRM-00	SSO-00
	SS-00	TEST-00	T-00	USIE-00	R-00	SNIS-00	NISC-00
	PMB-00	DSCC-00	DRL-02	G-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/012W

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R 120925Z APR 01  
FM AMEMBASSY VATICAN  
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TOTAL NUMBER OF STATES ACCREDITED AT THE VATICAN TO 174; THE WORLD'S CATHOLIC POPULATION GREW FROM 1.02 TO 1.04 BILLION; HALF THE WORLD'S CATHOLICS LIVE IN THE AMERICAS; 222 NEW BISHOPS WERE APPOINTED RAISING THE TOTAL TO 4482. THE PAPER SIZE OF THE VATICAN REFERENCE WORK WAS INCREASED FOR THE 2001 EDITION AS IT WAS BECOMING TOO BULKY. THE 2000 EDITION RAN TO 2500 PAGES! MERANTE

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